



STAY CONNECTED. STAY CURIOUS.

Hunting for Trace Fossils

Sometimes fossils are not the actual animal, but evidence that one was once there, like a footprint, claw marks, or even scat. These are called trace fossils. Explore around your house, backyard, or local park to see if there are any traces of animals or bugs. How many different kinds can you find?

You'll need:

- Paper and pencil to take notes
- *Optional:* camera to document what you find

What to do:

1. Explore your home, backyard, or local park, looking for different clues that animals and insects have been there.
2. Record what you find.

Clues to look for:

- Footprints
- Animal tracks
- Spiderwebs
- Scat (poop)
- Pellets of undigested bones/hair
- Nests
- Chewed leaves or twigs or shoes
- Holes in trees
- Fur
- Hair
- Feathers
- Bones
- Opened nuts
- Stripped logs
- Dens in the ground
- Matted down vegetation
- Claw marks on trees or furniture
- Snakeskin sheds
- Antlers

